culiarly pointed out by the nature of their avocations for a duty of this sort, are the practitioners attached to the Poor Law Unions, who, being in the daily habit of visiting the most destitute and neglected portion of the community, must become acquainted with the condition of the localities in which they reside, and with the prevalence of those disorders which result from the absence of public sanatory regulations.

Such Boards of Health would probably each have a clerk (paid for his services), whose duty it would be to make minutes of the proceedings, and give such returns, in a short tabular form, as might be useful for reference, and important as affording easy information on a subject of such vital interest to the people.

The principal duty and object of these Boards of Health would be precautionary and preventive; to turn the public attention to the causes of illness, and to suggest means by which the sources of contagion might be removed; and in this way your committee believe a great saving of expense would take place eventually, and that the necessary outlay would be compensated by the diminution, not only of suffering, but of actual cost to the community.

Your committee have next to suggest that facilities be afforded for the establishment in towns and newly-extended suburbs of an administrative authority for drainage and sewerage, without the necessity of incurring the expense and delay of a local Act.

This desirable object might be effected by passing an Act for this country, framed upon similar principles to the 9 Geo. 4. c. 82, which is restricted to Ireland, and by which, on the requisition of twenty-one householders, a public meeting may be called of all the inhabitants of houses rated at 5*l.* and upwards; this meeting is empowered to decide upon the appointment of commissioners in whom are vested the necessary powers for the cleansing, draining, paving, and lighting of the town. This Act has been already adopted in about sixty towns with general satisfaction. Your committee think it would be a good arrangement that these rates should be borne by the landlord, and that some facilities for that purpose should be given.

Your committee have been informed that doubts exist as to the powers possessed by some Commissioners of Sewers of constructing new sewers, they therefore recommend that the continuance of these doubts be obviated; and also that some additional powers, which appear absolutely necessary for remedying the evils which they have stated, be granted to existing Commissions of Sewers, as well as to those which may hereafter be constituted.

1. That of enforcing adequate sewerage for rows or streets of houses which may hereafter be erected; the expense of construction to be mainly charged upon the proprietors of the houses, while that of future repairs will fall upon the general rate of the district.

2. That of enforcing a communication between private dwellings and the adjacent main sewer, at the expense of the proprietors of those dwellings, and the repairs to be placed under the superintendence of the officers employed by the Commissioners of Sewers.

3. That of prohibiting the sinking of cesspools below the level of the main sewer, and any other similar powers which may be deemed necessary for the public benefit.

Your committee believe it would also be of the greatest advantage to the inhabitants of great towns if an inspector was appointed to enforce the due execution of sanatory regulations. They think such an officer should (whether appointed by the rate-payers, or the guardians of the poor whom they have chosen) have the power of proceeding by indictment to abate nuisances, an old remedy of the English law, which, though somewhat in disuse, it seems quite necessary to revive and extend, to prevent and put down injury to multitudes. At present, for want of some such guardian of public rights, they are continually encroached upon, and nuisances injurious to the health, comfort, and property of the people (especially of the humbler classes) are shewn by the evidence adduced before the committee to be constantly increasing. It would be the duty of such an officer to prevent any encroachment on or diversion of highways, or open spaces of ground in the enjoyment of the public.

Your committee think that the inspector should report from time to time the state of his district to the Board of Health, constituted as before suggested.

Your committee have thus given an outline of the principal remedial measures they propose. They have been obliged to detail these at considerable length, which is perhaps inseparable from the magnitude and importance of the subject.

Before, however, they conclude their report, they would state that there are several points of the utmost consequence to the health of the inhabitants of our great towns, which they content themselves with barely enumerating, because they feel assured that if the remedial suggestions they have made were acted upon, these matters would immediately be attended to.

Thus, if the legislative enactments suggested were passed, if Boards of Health and district inspectors were appointed, there can be little doubt that these subjects would soon attract the attention their importance deserves, and if legislative aid were wanted, it would in such case be promptly afforded.

1. The custom of continuing burying-grounds, crowded with constant additions of corpses, in the midst of populous cities, is spoken of by several witnesses as most injurious to health.

2. The importance of an ample and due supply of water within the reach and means of the humbler classes has been made evident to all who have attended to the subject, and appears lamentably deficient in several populous and increasing communities.

3. The augmentation of buildings in the vicinities of these crowded cities seems to call for provisions to insure some open spaces being preserved, calculated for public walks, essential to the health and comfort of the poorer classes. This was adverted to and recommended by the report of a former committee; it presses more and more as the population of these great towns rapidly increases, and many witnesses have spoken of the growing necessity for some such provision.

4. Some inspection and power of regulation of the humbler class of lodging-houses seems absolutely necessary for the health of the people. They are shewn, by evidence before your committee, to be now utterly neglected; that there are many in all our great towns habitually in a filthy condition, the abode of fever and other contagious disorders, destitute of all sanatory regulations, and inhabited from time to time by a migratory and shifting population. Thus the diseases which are frequently taken in these dirty and ill-ventilated places are spread about the country, to the manifest danger of the people.

5. Wherever local circumstances give the power to establish public bathing places for the use of the poorer classes, such a step would be highly beneficial, and the cost in manufacturing towns, where many steam-engines are employed, would not, it appears, be considerable.

Your committee have now nearly completed their outline of the sanatory regulations they recommend to the consideration of Parliament to prevent as far as practicable the recurrence and increase of circumstances highly injurious to the health and comfort of the inhabitants of our great towns and populous districts.

They cannot, however, conclude the task assigned to them, without endeavouring to suggest some method by which the existing evils may be somewhat removed, and the extent of suffering diminished.

It will be evident to any one who has considered this report, or looked into the evidence on which it is founded, that much of the unhealthiness of particular groups of dwellings, and sometimes of a whole district, arises from the want of some local improvement, in the removal of some obstruction to ventilation or drainage.

Thus, in some of the crowded and unhealthy places described, the opening of a fresh thoroughfare, giving light and air, would not only remove or abate the evil, but would give additional value to the property through which it passed.

Sometimes taking down a single house which blocked up the end of a street, or of one of those miserable courts described in the evidence, would greatly benefit all the others near, and add to their worth much more than their fair share of the cost of the whole improvement; or the case may be that the additional value given to the dwellings in the immediate vicinity of the proposed sanatory improvement would very nearly, if fairly estimated, cover the expense, requiring a small proportion only to be made up from some other fund.

This supposition may be varied in other ways, and is applicable to other improvements of almost any description, by which additional value is given, in different proportions, to private property, and at the same time the salubrity of the vicinity is increased.

Yet at present, however necessary for health or beneficial to private property such improvements may be, they cannot be effected, unless in each spot there be a special Act of Parliament for the purpose, which is the case in very few places. Where, however, such an Act exists, it is generally applicable only to particular improvements specified in the Bill; it only extends to cases where some fund already exists for defraying the expenses, and it gives no power of assessing the whole district benefited, or of appointing apportioners to decide in what proportions the immediate vicinity is augmented in value, and ought to be assessed in consequence. Thus, a single obstinate and unreasonable proprietor may, and frequently does, prevent an improvement beneficial to a whole neighbourhood, and even to himself; but if all the persons interested be willing to concur in the improvement, there are frequently legal disabilities which prevent their consent being available, as leases, entails, &c. Sometimes the power of exchange or sale, or long leases of a small portion of a settled property, would facilitate an improvement widely beneficial; but this now requires in each case a separate Act of Parliament.

Viewing, therefore, the necessity and advantage of such local improvements, and the difficulties which now prevent them, your committee beg to recommend the introduction of a general Act (extending to all towns above a certain population) to facilitate such improvements. They venture to suggest that such an Act should contain provisions calculated to obviate the difficulties pointed out; that it should lay down well-considered regulations as to the forms of proceeding; should enable willing parties to carry out beneficial alterations; should empower a certain majority (perhaps two-thirds) of the rate-payers of any district to adopt the provisions of the Act, and bind the minority; empower them to choose trustees or commissioners to fulfil the enactments, raise rates, purchase property, complete improvements, &c.

Your committee cannot but wish that such an Act, so essential to the welfare of these densely-peopled districts, should contain clauses to facilitate the commencement of public improvements necessary for health at the suggestion of the Board of Health, and for this purpose that, under due provisions, the Board should have the power of ordering surveys and estimates to a limited amount. Your committee also think that wherever the government, individuals, or any public body shall be willing to provide a certain proportion (as one-fourth or one-third) of the estimate of any such improvement, that there should be a power to enable such commissioners to raise a rate for the remainder. In this way they believe many spirited and benevolent persons would generously come forward to assist and stimulate such beneficial public improvements, which without some such facilities and provisions will never be made.

How far it might be advisable to enable the Lords of her Majesty's Treasury, in certain urgent cases, to advance on good security loans of Exchequer Bills to facilitate such improvements, your committee will not undertake to determine.

Your committee have thus ventured to recommend legislative measures to assist in the necessary work of laying down and enforcing sanatory regulations for the benefit of the inhabitants of the large towns of this realm. They cannot conclude this report, which they submit to the consideration of the House, without most earnestly recommending all those who, by fortune, station, or trust, are placed in a position to assist in carrying out these views, to exert themselves to the utmost, and without delay, in aiding the improvement suggested in their several towns and neighbourhoods. Whilst your committee is earnestly desirous

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